

## *LeRoy and His Tale of School Days*

*(fFrom page 7)*

“Pansy” if he wanted the cigarettes and he said “sure.” I said, “You want the matches also?” No, he replied, “I got plenty of matches.” I tore out a match, closed the cover, lit the whole book and tossed it down the toilet hole. Then I proceeded to go back to my classroom. You can guess what happened with all that paper down there.

A short time later I went to sharpen a pencil. The sharpener was fastened to the window sill overlooking the drama going on outside.

“Pansy” was running up the toilet path as best he could with two pails of water. Mr. Bily, the principal, was right behind, goading him on. Then back to the pump for more water. The smoke was pouring from all six holes. “Pansy” got the fire out with only minor damage to the lower boards of the toilet.

A very short time later, Mr. Bily called me out into the hall. He said, “Were you smoking in the toilet?” My answer was “no.” I went back to class and he went to beat on “Pansy” some more. The next day he called me out again. He said, “Did you set fire to the toilet?” My answer was “yes.” I was in trouble.

Ble. I told my story to the school board. Harold Zimmerman was chairman and with his help I returned to my studies. Lesson of the story: Don’t ever throw lighted matches down an outside klprivy.

Some years back, to pay for new windows in the building, my wife and I bought a window. If you go to the second floor, look out the north east window. You’ll see my name on the bronze plaque. I picked that window because my thoughts went back to the day I looked out and saw the privy burning.

More on school days in the future.

### **Cedarville Area Historical Society**

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## *ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE*

*JUNE 2005*

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## **Dr. Gordon Dammann to Open Summer History Series June 21**

Dr. Gordon Dammann, Lena dentist, and chairman of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, will speak Tuesday, June 21, at the new Cedarville Museum.

Dammann’s 7:30 p.m. topic will be “If Collections Could Talk” and it will feature items from his collection that relate to Civil War medicine.



**Dr. Gordon  
Dammann**

The program is the first of a summer series sponsored by the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Tickets for Dammann’s talk are available by calling Jim Bade at 815-563-4485. The cost is \$2 for historical society members; \$3 for non-members. Only 60 are available for each program.

The museum is in the old Cedarville School on top of the Second Street hill, one block west of Mill Street.

As a historian, Dr. Dammann has a long list of credentials. Besides being founder and head of the Museum of Civil War Medicine, he is also the founder and past president of the Lena Area Historical Society. He is a member of the Illinois Historical Society, the Cedarville Area Historical Society, the Chicago Civil War Round Table, the Society of Civil War Surgeons

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## *Dr. Dammann to Open History Series*

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and the Company of Military Historians.

Dr. Dammann is the author of the Pictorial Encyclopedia of Civil War Medicine, a three volume set. He is also on the editorial board of the North/South Magazine. He is an instructor of Civil War history at Highland Community College and he has lectured audiences on Civil War topics several dozen times.

Each fall, he and his wife conduct a history-related tour of the eastern part of the United States.

His professional and civic credentials are equally impressive. He is affiliated with nine dental organizations and has been an officer of several. His civic memberships include the Lena Lions Club, the Lena Business and Professional Association, the St. Joseph Parish Board and the Lena State Bank board.

Dr. Dammann in 2004 was named Lena Lion of the Year. His previous awards include Outstanding Young Man of Stephenson County in 1976 and Outstanding Public Servant of Lena in 1985.

Three other history-related events have been scheduled for 2005 by the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

On Wednesday, July 13, Carole Bertram will present a piano concert of popular songs from 1890 to 1910. She will perform on the 1906 upright piano that belongs to the historical society. Mrs. Bertram is a well known Freeport piano teacher and a member of the historical society.

On Tuesday, August 16, Paul Fry will talk. Fry is the author of "Generous Spirit: The Life of Mary Fry." She was Fry's aunt and a long-time close friend of the Jane Addams family. For many years Miss Fry was a member of the household of Anna Haldeman Addams, the second wife of John Addams. Fry is a Cedarville resident and a member of the historical society.

Both of these programs is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Cedarville Museum.

In September the historical society will hold its second Jane Addams Festival, but the exact date has not been set. September is the month in which Miss Addams was born in Cedarville. Last year's event included a 5 K run and walk on the Jane Addams Trail.

then except for a large oak in the outfield. We always played what was called "work up" at recess and we tried to give Bob Wolf a perfect pitch just as recess was nearing an end. He was a slugger. He could hit the ball over the tree and it would bounce over the cliff down to the edge of Cedar Creek. Of course, a couple of us had to go down the cliff to retrieve the ball. It got us out of class for awhile.

Last week Jim Bade, president of the historical society, found the large bust of Abe Lincoln that was in the school for many years. He called and said he wanted to set it where it was when the school was operating. I thought for a moment and told him he would have to get a ladder and take it up in the attic. He thought that was a strange place for Abe. I informed him Abe sat looking out on the playground for many years. There is a small window at the roof line on the east side of the school. This was Lincoln's place of honor all the years I attended Cedarville School. I swear there were times I saw him laugh and times he joined me in crying.

We didn't have any modern conveniences in my time at the school. We had outside toilets. The girl's was located on the south side of the building and the boy's on the north. The boiler made lots of cinders so a cinder path led to each outhouse.



*LeRoy's window.*

led to each outhouse. Ours was a six holer with a galvanized trough for the urinals. This brings to mind a story that happened my sophomore year.

If you had to go potty, only one person could go out at a time. I asked to go out and when I got to the outhouse, Laurence "Pansy" Fransen was in the toilet. He was in a different classroom than I and he was smoking. I was known to take a few puffs myself, but being captain of the basketball team, I didn't want to be caught. I had a partial pack of Paul Jones cigarettes and a book of matches in my pocket. I asked

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# Oh, How I Remember Those Event Filled Days at School

By LeRoy Wilson

People ask me where I went to school and I tell them I went ten years to Cedarville School and two years to Freeport High. They are curious to know why it took me so long to complete school at Cedarville.

In my days at Cedarville, we had first through tenth grades. I want to share a few of my experiences and thoughts of those ten years at what we now call the "old school" — the one built in 1889 and now restored as a museum by the Cedarville Area Historical Society. It sits on the top of the hill on West Second Street.

I started in the first grade in the fall of 1932. This was during the heart of the Great Depression. Including all ten grades, there were about 100 kids with four teachers. The principal of the school usually taught the freshman and sophomore grades. The other eight grades were divided among the other three teachers.

Naturally we all walked to school rain or shine and it was uphill both ways in Cedarville. We didn't realize we were

were poor because everyone was in the same boat during the Depression years. During winter, we all had some sort of sled and our school had its own built-for-sledding hill. The teachers never tried to drive their autos up Second Street because we always had it slick for sledding.

Just north of the school, where the woods are now, was the location of our ball diamonds. There were no trees

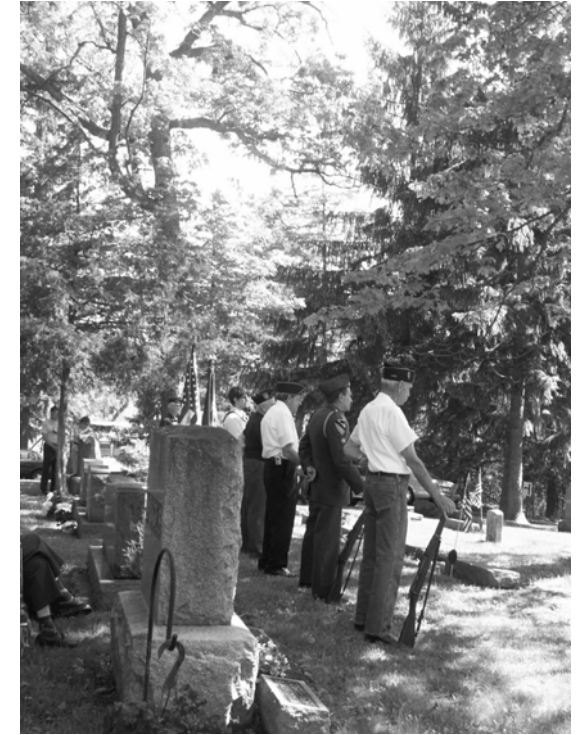


*LeRoy and Lincoln*



## Memorial Day —Parade, Ceremony,





## *Picnic and Museum Open House*



*Museum Is Open  
Saturday, Sunday  
1 P. M. to 4 P. M.*

